

OPINION 1945

Scarus chrysopterus Bloch & Schneider, 1801 (currently *Sparisoma chrysopterus*; Osteichthyes, Perciformes): specific name conserved and designated as the type species of *Sparisoma* Swainson, 1839

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Osteichthyes; Perciformes; SCARIDAE; *Sparisoma*; *Sparisoma abildgaardi*; *Sparisoma chrysopterus*; parrot fishes; Caribbean; Western Atlantic.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power:
 - (a) the specific name *abildgaardi* Bloch, 1791, as published in the binomen *Sparus abildgaardi*, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
 - (b) all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Sparisoma* Swainson, 1839 are hereby set aside and *Scarus chrysopterus* Bloch & Schneider, 1801 is designated as the type species.
- (2) The name *Sparisoma* Swainson, 1839 (gender: neuter), type species by designation under the plenary power in (1)(b) above *Scarus chrysopterus* Bloch & Schneider, 1801, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *chrysopterus* Bloch & Schneider, 1801, as published in the binomen *Scarus chrysopterus* (specific name of the type species of *Sparisoma* Swainson, 1839), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.
- (4) The name *abildgaardi* Bloch, 1791, as published in the binomen *Sparus abildgaardi* and as suppressed in (1)(a) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3051

An application for the conservation of the specific name of *Scarus chrysopterus* Bloch & Schneider, 1801, and designation of the species as the type of *Sparisoma* Swainson, 1839, was received from Dr Rodrigo L. Moura (*Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil*) and Dr John E. Randall (*Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A.*) on 25 June 1997. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 55: 151–154 (September 1998). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 1999 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 55: 153. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 1999 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 19: Bock, Brothers, Cocks, Dupuis, Eschmeyer, Heppell, Kerzhner, Kraus, Macpherson, Mahnert, Mawatari, Minelli, Nielsen, Papp, Patterson, Savage, Schuster, Song, Štys (part)

Negative votes — 2: Bouchet and Cogger.

No vote was received from Martins de Souza.

Lehtinen and Ride were on leave of absence.

In voting against Cogger commented: 'Given the levels of taxonomic subjectivity involved, I do not believe that suppression of the older name *abildgaardi* or a change in the type species of *Sparisoma* are warranted. The authors' objective could have been achieved by simply giving precedence to *chrysopterus* whenever it and *abildgaardi* are considered to be conspecific'. Štys voted in favour of the suppression of the name *abildgaardi* but against the designation of *Scarus chrysopterus* as the type species of *Sparisoma*; he commented: 'I cannot see any reason why the nominal species *Sparus abildgaardi* should not stand as the type species of *Sparisoma* despite having been suppressed (cf. Articles 67.1.2 and 81.2.1 of the Code)'.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

abildgaardi, *Sparus*, Bloch, 1791, *Naturgeschichte der ausländischen Fische*, part 4, p. 22.

chrysopterus, *Scarus*, Bloch & Schneider, 1801, *Systema Ichthyologiae iconibus ex illustratum*, p. 286.

Sparisoma Swainson, 1839, *The natural history and classification of fishes, amphibians, and reptiles, or monocardian animals*, vol. 2, p. 227.